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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 U.S. Cattle Inventory
July 1 U.S. Sheep Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Mink Production
Red Meat Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production

U.S. July 1 Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2005, totaled 104.5 million head, 1 percent above the 103.6 million on July 1, 2004 and 1 percent above the 103.9 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.8 million, were 1 percent above the 42.5 million on July 1, 2004 and slightly above the 42.7 million two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 and up slightly from two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.05 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 but down 1 percent from two years ago. Other class estimates on July 1, 2005 and the changes from July 1, 2004, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.2 million, up 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.0 million, up 4 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, up 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.5 million, down 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.4 million, up 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, up 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 29.0 million, up slightly.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.0 million, up 2 percent.

The 2005 calf crop is expected to be 37.8 million, up slightly from 2004 but down slightly from 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 1 percent from 2003.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on July 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above July 1, 2004 and 5 percent above July 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.81 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.53 million head, down 5 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.77 million, 7 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net placements were 1.71 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 412,000, 600-699 pounds were 347,000, 700-799 pounds were 480,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.07 million, 1 percent below 2004 and 7 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during June, 10 percent below 2004 but 3 percent above 2003.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2005, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 12.0 million, up 2 percent from the 11.8 million on July 1, 2004 and up 2 percent from July 1, 2003. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2005, up from 86 percent on July 1, 2004.

U.S. July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2005, totaled 7.80 million head, 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.66 million head on July 1, 2005 was 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.14 million head, were 1 percent above last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.79 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 680,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.06 million head was comprised of 1.81 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 350,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 260,000 lambs over

105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 90,000.

The 2005 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.12 million head, up 1 percent from the 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2005 totaled 3.65 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2005.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 19.2 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.7 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) for 14.7 percent.

U.S. Pelt Production Up 1 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2004 totaled 2.56 million pelts, up 1 percent from 2003. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 768,000 pelts. Utah the second largest producing state, produced 580,000 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2004 follows: Black at 45.1 percent, Mahogany at 22.2 percent, Blue Iris at 11.7 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.1 percent, Sapphire at 5.3 percent, and White at 4.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 5.5 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2004 crop year were valued at 124 million dollars, up 21 percent from \$102 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2004 crop year was \$48.40, up from \$40.10 in 2003. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2005 totaled 642,100, up 6 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2005 by color class are: Black at 46.8 percent, Mahogany at 20.0 percent, Blue Iris at 10.7 percent, Demi/Wild at 5.9 percent, Sapphire at 5.9 percent and white at 4.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6.5 percent. (Continued on next page.)

Mink Production (Continued from front page)

There were 296 mink farms producing pelts in 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms and Minnesota with 28. There were 17 mink farms which also raised fox in 2004, down from 18 the previous year.

U.S. June 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2005, up 4 percent from June 2004, and 13 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, unchanged from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 16 pounds to 1,175 pounds.

During June there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, was up 14 pounds from last year. June sheep slaughter in the state totaled 100 head, unchanged from June 2004. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.96 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in June 2004. Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 2 percent from June 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 1 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 11 percent from June 2004. The average live weight was 31 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, 1 percent above June 2004. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 268 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was down 1 percent from June 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 222,900 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 4 pounds from June a year ago.

January to June 2005 commercial red meat production was 22.2 billion pounds, down slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Montana 2005 Wheat and Barley Varieties

The top four **winter wheat** varieties account for 54.7 percent of the acreage seeded for harvest in 2005. The top four varieties seeded for 2004 accounted for 60.9 percent of the total winter wheat acreage for the state. **Rampart** remains the most popular winter wheat variety with 503,200 acres seeded this year, compared to last year's acreage of 543,400. **Neeley** stays in second place this year with 261,400 acres seeded, which accounts for 12.2 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in the state. **Tiber** remains in third place with 253,200 acres seeded, which is up from last year's acreage of 176,400. **Morgan** is the fourth leading variety in the state this year. A total of 159,300 acres were seeded, which is up from 144,100 acres seeded in 2004. This acreage accounts for 7.4 percent of the total acres seeded.

The top four **spring wheat** varieties account for 71.9 percent of the acreage seeded for harvest in 2005. The top four varieties seeded for 2004 accounted for 71.6 percent of the total spring wheat acreage for the state. **McNeal** is the leading spring wheat variety seeded for the eighth consecutive year, accounting for 28.8 percent of the acreage, or 748,200 acres, which is down more than 200,000 acres from 2004. **Reeder** remains in second place with 613,200 acres seeded this year, which is down from last year's acreage of 681,800. This acreage accounts for 23.6 percent of the total acres seeded. **Ernest** stays in third place this year with 298,600 acres seeded, which accounts for 11.5 percent of the spring wheat acres seeded in Montana. **Conan** is the fourth leading variety for the second year in a row with 208,200 acres seeded, or 8.0 percent of the state's spring wheat acreage.

The top four **durum wheat** varieties account for 82.6 percent of the total acreage in the state for 2005. The top four varieties in 2004 accounted for 86.3 percent of the total durum wheat acreage.

Mountrail remains the top durum wheat variety in the state for the second year in a row with 288,900 acres seeded, or 50.6 percent of the durum wheat acreage. This year's acreage is up from the 240,200 acres that were planted in 2004. **Kyle** is in second place again this year, after spending seven consecutive years at the top from 1997 to 2003. There were 121,300 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 21.3 percent of the total acres. **AC Avonlea** stays the third most popular variety this year with 30,800 acres seeded or 5.4 percent of the state's durum wheat. **Lebsock** joins the top four list this year, with 29,700 acres seeded, or 5.2 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage.

Montana farmers seeded 950,000 acres of **barley** in 2005, down from 1.0 million acres in 2004. Fifty percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association Inc. for use in Montana. **Harrington** remains the top malting variety planted in the state for the twelfth year in a row. It was seeded on 268.7 thousand acres or 28.3 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **AC Metcalfe** stays in second place this year, with 83.0 thousand acres planted, which accounts for 8.7 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **B 1202** moves into third place this year, after being ranked fourth in 2004. It accounts for 47.7 thousand of the barley acres seeded this year, or 5.0 percent of the acreage. **B Merit** drops to the fourth most popular malting variety, with 43.4 thousand acres seeded, or 4.6 percent of Montana's barley acreage.

Haybet remains the most popular **forage** barley for the sixth year in a row, with 163.4 thousand acres seeded, which accounts for 17.2 percent of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2005. **Westford** is the second most popular forage barley for the third year in a row, with 20.1 thousand acres or 2.1 percent of the state barley acres seeded in 2005. **Baronesse** is the most popular **feed** barley again in 2005. It represents 3.7 percent of the total acreage or 35.3 thousand acres seeded in Montana for 2005. **Bowman** is the second leading feed variety this year with 24.0 thousand acres or 2.5 percent of the barley acres seeded in 2005. This report was made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Winter Wheat

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 2/	2005
Rampart	9.0	13.8	15.9	19.6	25.7	28.6	23.4
Neeley	20.8	19.2	22.6	19.9	16.8	15.4	12.2
Tiber	17.3	11.3	10.9	11.2	9.5	9.3	11.8
Morgan	7.0	8.3	10.0	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.4
Rocky	8.2	6.9	8.9	11.1	8.0	6.0	7.0
Vanguard	7.0	9.4	6.7	9.1	6.7	7.6	6.3
CDC Falcon	--	--	--	--	0.4	1.8	3.7
Redwin	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.4	3.4
Tomahawk	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.8
Winalta	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.8
Pryor	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.6
Promontory	--	--	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.8	1.6
Jagalene	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.4
Judith	1.0	2.3	0.3	0.5	--	1.3	1.3
Quantum 542	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.0
Big Horn	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.0
Clearfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Nuwest **	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8
Cheyenne	--	0.6	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.7
Big Sky	--	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.7
Nufrontier	--	--	--	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.6
Erhardt	--	--	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.5
Harding	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.5
Other & Unknown	17.2	13.9	10.1	10.0	13.0	10.3	8.6
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted.2/ Revised.**White wheat variety.

Spring Wheat

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 2/	2005
McNeal	40.4	48.8	49.2	38.8	35.9	31.7	28.8
Reeder	--	0.1	3.4	9.1	18.4	22.7	23.6
Ernest	9.4	10.7	10.1	11.4	11.0	10.0	11.5
Conan	--	1.0	3.1	5.0	3.7	7.1	8.0
Fortuna	5.0	4.9	5.1	7.8	3.8	4.6	6.5
Hank	--	--	--	0.3	1.2	1.7	2.4
Amidon	14.2	10.9	7.8	6.2	4.0	3.0	2.2
Scholar	--	--	0.5	1.9	3.0	2.2	1.6
Lew	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.6
Choteau	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.6
Westbred Rambo	6.7	5.3	3.2	3.8	2.7	3.2	1.3
Westbred 936	1.7	3.5	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1
Westbred 926	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9
Parshall	--	--	0.5	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.8
Gunner	--	--	--	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
Len	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
Grandin	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.4
Abbey	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Westbred Express	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Newana	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2
Other & Unknown	13.3	5.9	9.5	7.1	7.1	6.2	5.8
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted.2/ Revised.

Durum Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
Mountrail	--	0.9	9.6	26.9	35.7	42.1	50.6
Kyle	55.3	52.5	45.3	40.2	38.0	34.1	21.3
AC Avonlea	--	1.4	3.9	3.4	4.3	7.2	5.4
Lebsock	--	--	--	0.3	3.4	2.3	5.2
Alzada	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.9
Monroe	4.8	2.9	3.3	1.2	3.4	1.7	1.8
Ward	4.4	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.8	1.7
Pierce	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.2
Ben	4.1	7.8	8.0	5.6	4.3	2.6	1.1
Vic	8.1	2.6	1.6	1.4	0.1	0.7	0.9
Maier	--	--	0.7	--	0.3	0.4	0.7
Plaza	--	--	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.7
Voss	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3
Crosby	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Renville	5.3	5.3	6.5	2.8	2.1	0.1	0.2
Other & Unknown	17.1	23.9	17.3	14.0	4.2	4.9	6.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised.

Barley

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
Harrington *	49.6	49.9	45.7	47.6	47.1	39.8	28.3
Haybet	4.5	6.5	10.2	10.5	9.9	10.4	17.2
AC Metcalfe *	--	--	--	--	0.7	4.9	8.7
B 1202 *	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	4.9	3.9	5.0
B Merit *	1.2	1.6	1.1	2.6	3.8	4.3	4.6
Moravian 37	0.1	1.5	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.0	3.9
Baronesse	7.6	6.2	5.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.7
Bowman	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.5
Westbred Xena	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.9	2.5
Hector	4.9	3.7	2.7	3.1	1.8	2.5	2.1
Westford	0.1	1.2	2.7	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.1
Gallatin	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.9	2.9	3.5	1.7
Tradition *	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.7
Valier	--	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.9	2.3	1.5
Legacy *	--	--	--	0.6	1.0	2.8	1.4
Conrad	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.4
Horsford	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.3
Lewis	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.9
Stark	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
Piroline	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.8
Hays	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.8
Conlon *	--	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.7
Haxby	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Other & Unknown	12.3	13.0	12.4	7.1	8.1	8.2	5.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. *Denotes variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in Montana in 2005.

June Milk Production Up 5.4 Percent in 23 Major States

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 13.7 billion pounds, up 5.4 percent from June 2004. May revised production, at 14.3 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from May 2004. The May revision represented an increase of 26 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,683 pounds for June, 76 pounds above June 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.13 million head, 47,000 head more than June 2004, and 9,000 head more than May 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April-June quarter totaled 45.6 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from the April-June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during

the quarter was 9.04 million head, 34,000 head more than the same period last year.

U.S. June Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during June 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 61 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2005 averaged 341 million, down slightly from a year earlier. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,151 eggs, up 1 percent from June 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2005, totaled 340 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.59 million layers producing

egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2005, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2005 totaled 34.5 million, down 8 percent from June 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.0 million on July 1, 2005, down 7 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 184,000 during June 2005, down 13 percent from June 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2005 totaled 796 million, up 1 percent from June 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on July 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 7.11 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2005, up 3 percent from June 2004.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

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